

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PRETOR 03544 241521Z

ACTION AF-10

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FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1475

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRETORIA 3544

FROM LOW

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: PINT, PDEV, APER, RH

SUBJECT: RHODESIA: STAFFING SUPPORT FOR LOW MISSION

1. GIVEN POSSIBILITY THAT OUR CURRENT DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS WILL CONTINUE FOR SOME TIME, IT IS APPROPRIATE TO CONSIDER QUESTION OF STAFF SUPPORT. DURING OUR LAST TWO VISITS TO SALISBURY AN EMBASSY PRETORIA SECRETARY-COURIER HAS COME FOR TWO DAY VISITS TO TYPE REPORTS AND CARRY TRAFFIC BACK AND FORTH. DUE TO FOREIGN SERVICE INSPECTORS PRESENCE IN PRETORIA AND VISIT OF GERALD SMITH, EMBASSY PRETORIA WILL NOT BE ABLE TO PROVIDE A SECRETARY AT ALL NEXT WEEK. EMBASSY PRETORIA POLITICAL OFFICER ALSO ASSISTED ME IN SALISBURY JUNE 13-15, AND WAS HIGHLY USEFUL IN TAKING NOTES, DRAFTING REPORTS AND ANSWERING INQUIRIES. EMBASSY PRETORIA ON A SHORT TERM BASIS IS WILLING TO PROVIDE A POLITICAL OFFICER TO ASSIST WHENEVER I AM IN SALISBURY BUT IS NOT ABLE TO SPARE A FULL-TIME OR EVEN HALF-TIME OFFICER WHO COULD ACCOMPANY ME DURING OTHER ASPECTS OF THE MISSION.

2. IN LIGHT OF THIS SITUATION I WOULD LIKE TO REQUEST THAT DEPARTMENT ASSIGN ROVER OR TDY SECRETARY TO ASSIST ME FULL-TIME AS WELL AS FULL-TIME TDY OFFICER.

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PAGE 02 PRETOR 03544 241521Z

THE LATTER COULD BE SELECTED WITH THE IDEA OF POSSIBLE EVENTUAL ASSIGNMENT TO SALISBURY. (FYI: GRAHAM INFORMS ME THAT HE INTENDS TO RECOMMEND FCO ASSIGN ANOTHER OFFICER AT THE VARCOE LEVEL TO THE UK OFFICE IN SALISBURY). IF POSSIBLE, WOULD APPRECIATE ASSIGNMENT OF ROVER OR TDY SECRETARY IN TIME TO MEET ME IN SALISBURY ON JUNE 30 AT WHICH TIME WE PLAN TO RETURN

FOR ANOTHER ROUND.

3. SINCE THERE IS NO WAY YET OF KNOWING HOW LONG WE WILL BE ENGAGED IN THIS MISSION, THERE IS REASON FOR PRETORIA TO KEEP ITS HAND IN BY CONTINUING ITS EFFORTS TO COVER AND ANALYZE RHODESIAN POLITICAL, MILITARY AND ECONOMIC TRENDS. CONSEQUENTLY, BILL EDMONDSON AND I HAVE AGREED THAT IN ANY EVENT, EMBASSY PRETORIA WILL CONTINUE PERIODICALLY TO SEND AN OFFICER TO SALISBURY DURING MY VISITS THERE.

4. USE OF DAO PRETORIA AIRCRAFT HAS BEEN INVALUABLE. I DO NOT BELIEVE WE COULD OPERATE THE WAY WE HAVE WITHOUT IT. IF THINGS MOVE AS THEY MIGHT, WE WILL NEED TO BE VERY MOBILE DURING A SHORT PERIOD OF TIME.
EDMONDSON

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NNN

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